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Central Intelligence Bulletin

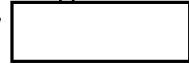
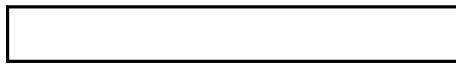
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*Communist Summit: The statement on the Middle East issued last night at the hastily called Communist "summit meeting" in Moscow contains no specific commitments and there is currently no evidence that increased aid or other concrete action in support of the Arabs is planned.

The leaders of Bulgaria, Hungary, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia merely broadened Russia's relatively feeble diplomatic and verbal support of the Arabs with a joint vow to "do everything necessary" to help rebuff aggression if Israel does not halt military actions and pull back its troops behind the "truce line."

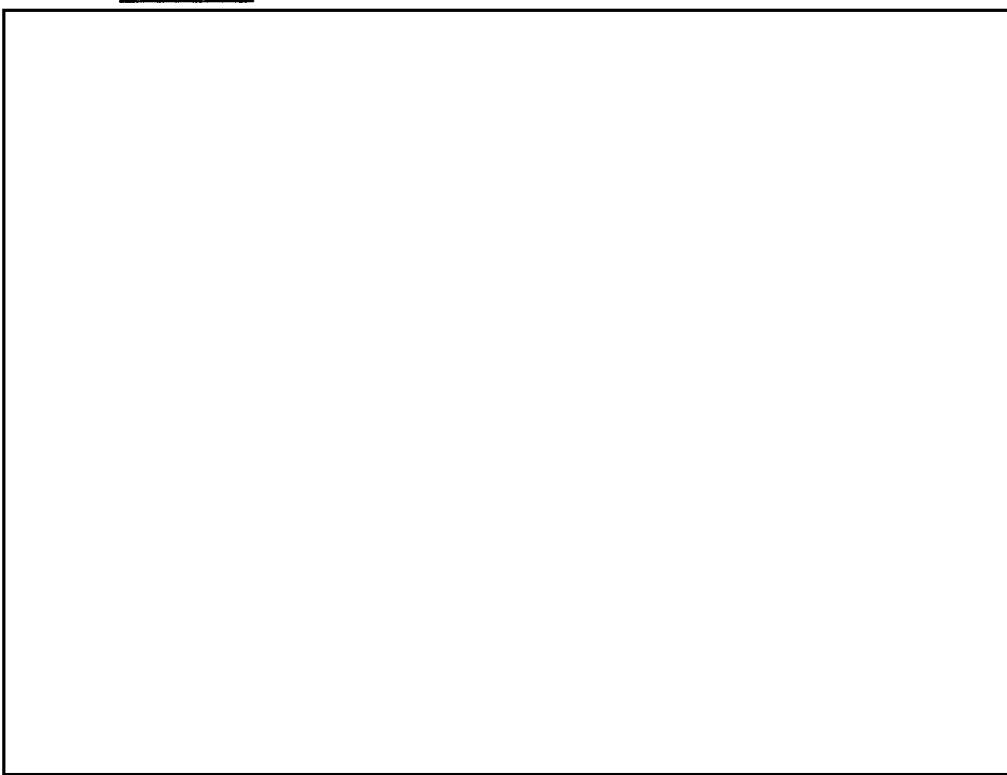
The Communist statement does not approach the saber-rattling of 1956, but it almost certainly pressages an intensified Soviet bid to refurbish its image with the Arabs. The statement makes clear that, after circumventing the Arabs at the UN by voting in favor of the simple cease-fire resolutions, Moscow moved quickly to head off a wave of adverse Arab reaction and criticism from hard-line elements within the Communist world.

Yugoslavia's participation is rare, but is in keeping with Belgrade's position on the Middle East conflict. Bucharest has not yet publicly taken sides in the conflict, and TASS announced only that "Rumanian leaders also attended the meeting."

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

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North Vietnamese Political Developments: [North Vietnam's President Ho Chi Minh has been out of public sight for an unusually long time, perhaps because of illness.]

[Ho's only public appearance since mid-March occurred on 24 April when he reportedly voted in a local election.]

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[Official correspondence under Ho's signature continues to be issued, however, and he is being routinely praised in regime propaganda.]

[Ho usually takes an extended vacation of four to six weeks around his birthday which is on 19 May, but it is possible that this year, at the age of 77, illness has forced him to rest for a longer period.]

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*Nigeria: [A federal military move against the East may take place this weekend.]

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[Federal forces have been building up for some time along the northern region's border with the East, apparently in preparation for possible offensive operations. In addition, there have been indications recently of a federal plan to land a small number of troops by sea along the Eastern coast. Such an operation would be aimed in part at trying to foment active resistance to Ojukwu's breakaway regime by minority tribes which have long resented domination by the East's majority Ibo tribe.]

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[The East's Governor Ojukwu, who feels his forces can defend successfully against any federal attack, has sent several emissaries abroad to seek recognition for the "Republic of Biafra." His regime has not yet been recognized by any country. Cameroon, which has a common border with "Biafra," reportedly has rebuffed Ojukwu's emissaries and on 7 June announced--jointly with Nigeria's federal government--measures that may make it more difficult for Easterners to travel abroad via Cameroon.]

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***Haiti:** The execution of 19 military officers for "high treason" on 8 June was probably designed to deter other potential antiregime plotters.

The officers were arrested in late May as part of a general shake-up of President Duvalier's security forces. Some of them had been close to Duvalier for years, and their arrests combined with the numerous changes in military commands which followed have eroded Duvalier's narrow power base even further.

The executions could backfire on Duvalier if other military aides--distinguished in the past solely by their loyalty--now begin to have doubts about their positions.

The embassy reports many Haitians were stunned and shocked by this latest regime ruthlessness. News of the executions was broadcast over the government-controlled radio, which suggests that Duvalier wanted to indicate that he had the situation well in hand. 25X

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